

were defeated. Pending further information we are justified in concluding that the expedition was a political enterprise for the annexation of a portion of the whole of Tongking, and that it has been defeated and forced to retire.

Our reasoning may be wrong, but we are confident at least that the large number who read the account of the affair given by the *Independant* will come to the same conclusion. It is indeed a pity that the expedition is now abandoned, and what are the causes of the disavowal of the action taken. The answer to this is probably very different, and in all likelihood lies in the fact that the French Government are not disposed to support the action of a commercial expedition so likely to involve them in serious political complications and it will remain to be seen who is responsible for this most unfortunate blow to the prestige of France in the Far East. As the matter stands, according to the latest account of it, we cannot but think it an error to have retired after the affair had been carried so far, and with so high a hand. It is impossible to believe that the French Government would have allowed some kind of official sanction and concurrence; and the *Annuaire* will assuredly credit the failure to the French nation, and not to the successor of M. Garfield individually.

THE CUSTOMS CRUISE.

Our attention has been directed to a point of much importance with reference to the Customs cruiser *Quang*, which has been sent on our own notice, and also that of others, who have taken the subject into their consideration. It is that the junks on which the depredations for so many years we can call by no other name—are made, are mostly Chinese junks, and manned by Chinese subjects; and consequently there can be no strictly international point involved in the matter. The view which the Chinese thus make out for themselves is simple enough. They say, "these men are our subjects, and the junks they are in are under our flag, but they make use of your Colony to evade the duties which they should pay." We take our own steps to put a stop to this, and it is not for you to object to our doing so on the high seas, as we like to see our subjects for the protection of our own revenue. We must confess that this argument seems to be unanswerable, and that unless some reply be found to it, it seems impossible to deal with the matter effectively in Hongkong.

The interference with the junks is, however, beyond any doubt, a very vexatious matter, but it is not what we can protect. If we refer to Canton, the answer from the Consul is invariably the same, namely, that the junks have been seized in consequence of their being engaged in smuggling operations, and have been condemned according to Chinese law, on that ground—and there the matter ends. But the *Quang*, at times, been used for the purposes of smuggling, and that it is impossible to prevent this altogether now, but it is important to bear in mind that there is no doubt that the action of the cruisers goes much further than anything which is called for in order fairly to protect the revenue, and is put upon the *Quang*, such as ought certainly not to be allowed to continue. But in order to act upon these broad grounds, the co-operation of the Consul at Canton under instructions from Peking, and the concurrence of the Home Government, are essential, and it is too much to be feared that at the present time the Colony will not receive any aid in these directions, though it is most desirable that some steps should be taken to prevent all Chinese trade being diverted from the place. On the broad grounds of diplomacy, action might fairly be taken, but it is to be feared that upon the narrower basis of law and international usage, the Chinese are too strong for us. Their action amounts to what is by no means new, that is, doing a thing legal in itself with the object and its effects into consideration, but the law cannot go beyond the actions themselves, and so long as no absolute violation of international right is committed, we can do little more than protest.

If, however, the subject be taken up upon the broad basis of international law, dealing, the question at once arises whether the vessels are overhauled to protect a recognised revenue, or only with a view to levying black mail specially imposed upon the trade of the Colony. If the latter, it is not because of trade duties, and because the junks are coming to this place, if the overhauling is done on the former grounds, the Chinese are justified in their action, but if it is done on the latter grounds, they are simply abusing their powers and making their right to protect their *bona fide* revenue a lever to aim a blow at the trade of Hongkong. There is a great deal to be said in favour of the latter view, and the further question arises whether they can be considered to be preserving good faith towards us in regard to the concessions made in the treaties at the time when Hongkong was ceded. The cession of Hongkong was part of a series of trade concessions made at the time of the signature of the Treaty of Nanking, and it is reasonable to expect that the Chinese will act in a way consistent with the spirit of the treaty, and the necessities of legitimate trade. Putting the matter, therefore, on its smallest basis as against the Chinese, they cannot be held to be justified in directly attacking the interests of this place, and, upon these grounds, it would be reasonable to expect that they would prove sufficient to ensure success; but, if we look at the matter from the point of view of energy, but be backed up fully by H.M. Consul at Canton and, if need be, by the Minister at Peking and the Home Authorities, the action of the Commission will be useless; matters will come to a deadlock in the above or some other diplomatic question, and the Colony will remain practically without redress.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts. Unfortunately, however, the real truth is that China is a particularly unpromising field for Missionaries of all kinds, but especially for those who, as is the case with many well-meaning young men, come out to China, possessed of a powerful personality or logic, and a very soon put *hors de combat* in any arguments with the eminently astute and sceptical people whom they attempt to convert. To the Catholic, this remark does not greatly apply, as, with a wisdom which it would be satisfactory to see followed elsewhere, the Catholic Church usually selects men of education, and such as are especially qualified to spread the Christian doctrine as Missionaries in distant parts; and it would be unfair not to acknowledge that among Protestant Missionaries there are many men of learning and talent. But it is notorious that a large number of Protestant Missionaries are men of the most

CANTON.

An article has been published on the evening of the 8th inst., based upon the *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong, and a large number of shops in the neighbourhood. At 10 o'clock, the *Yung* house was reached, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

POOCHOW.

An amateur dramatic entertainment took place on the evening of the 8th inst. Two plays were performed, the first being *The House of the Old Chow Hong*, and the second being *The House of the Old Chow Hong*. The first play was performed by a large number of men, and the second play was performed by a large number of men.

SHANGHAI.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

PEKING.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

HONGKONG.

An accident of a remarkable nature occurred on the morning of the 8th inst. A steamer named the *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts.

TONGKIN.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

SHANGHAI.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

PEKING.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

HONGKONG.

An accident of a remarkable nature occurred on the morning of the 8th inst. A steamer named the *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts.

hope, and would much like some of the work which is done in the Colony. The day was not so distant when they should have been able to do a great deal of work in the Colony. The day was not so distant when they should have been able to do a great deal of work in the Colony. The day was not so distant when they should have been able to do a great deal of work in the Colony.

HONGKONG FLOWER SHOW.

The second annual local exhibition of flowers, fruits, and vegetables was opened on the morning of the 8th inst. The exhibition was held in the grounds of the Hongkong Club, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

The *Yung* house of the old *Chow* Hong was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there. The *Yung* house was reached at 10 o'clock, and it was found that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there, and that a large number of men were gathered there.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

If any person wishes to obtain specimens of pure, undiluted impudence, we would recommend him to devote his attention to some of the reports which are sent home by Missionaries in China. It is essential that they should make a show of doing something. They are sent out to China as a great field for well-meaning, energetic, and patriotic people at home to assist in the great work, which it is supposed Missionaries are carrying on in these parts.

